



#### For More Information:

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#### Possible Pollutants

- Inorganic nutrients: P, N<sub>2</sub>
- Toxic Chemicals
- Organics
- Fuel & Oil spills

#### Good Housekeeping

- Proper application & disposal of chemicals
- Secondary containment
- Spill cleanup materials
- Dry cleanup methods
- Employee training

#### Related Procedures

- Material Storage
- Spill Prevention & Response
- Parks & Open Space Maintenance
- Heavy Equipment & Vehicle Maintenance
- Vehicle Fueling

# Fertilizer, Herbicide & Pesticide Application

## Description

It is important to properly handle, apply, and clean-up spills of fertilizers, herbicides & pesticides. These landscaping chemicals contain toxic pollutants that may be picked up by rainwater, entering the storm sewer and directly polluting the water of local ponds or river. Excessive fertilizer application can also contribute to algae blooms and reduce oxygen from waterways.

The goal of this written Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) is to provide guidance to employees to help prevent stormwater pollution.

If this service is contracted, the Contractor should be provided with a copy of this SOP. The contract should also specify that the Contractor is responsible for compliance with all applicable laws.

## Procedures

### General

- Keep material safety data sheets available on-site. Employees should understand their right to know what chemicals they are using.
- Follow label directions to apply, store, handle, mix, recycle and dispose of chemicals and empty containers.
- Use care to transfer, mix or dispose of chemicals. Never perform these activities near storm drains or drainageways
- Have spill cleanup materials/kits available and cleanup chemicals spills promptly with dry methods, if possible. Refer to Spill Prevention & Response procedure.

### Application

- Staff performing chemical applications must wear all appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Chemicals shall be used strictly in accordance with their labels and applicable federal, state, & local laws.
- Always follow Manufacturer's recommendations:
  - Many chemicals should not be applied right before or during rain storms; or while the area is being irrigated; or during high-wind events.
  - Apply only the recommended amounts of chemicals

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- Do not overspray chemicals onto an impervious surface, such as a sidewalk or road. These chemicals will wash into the storm drain inlet during the next rainstorm.
- Clean up all over-sprayed chemicals.
- Do not apply landscape chemicals to frozen ground.
- When watering landscaped areas after fertilizer application, do not allow water to runoff into streets and into storm drains.

### Chemical Storage

- Materials shall be stored in accordance with all current federal, state and local laws.
- Chemicals shall be stored w/secondary containment, in an enclosed & secure building.
- Recycle or dispose of all spent or excess chemicals properly and promptly.
- Keep a chemical inventory to minimize storage and ensure proper disposal of waste.
- Follow Outdoor Material Storage procedure.

### Equipment

- Sprayers shall be used to apply only materials that are suitable for spraying.
- Spreaders shall be used to apply only materials that are available in granular forms.
- Fertilizers & pesticides should be loaded into application equipment over impervious surfaces, so that any spills can be easily cleaned.
- Keep application equipment calibrated to ensure the right amount of chemical is applied
- Keep application equipment clean; do not allow a buildup of chemicals.
- Fuel all equipment following the Vehicle Fueling procedure.
- For maintenance of equipment follow Heavy Equipment & Vehicle Maintenance procedure.

### Employee Training

- It is recognized that additional training and certifications exist for chemical application, handling & storage. Appropriate employees must be certified.
- Train applicable employees on this written SOP, including proper storage practices, spill prevention & spill reporting.
- Conduct refresher training on the SOP for applicable employees.

### Records

The following records could be used to document activities performed:

- Chemical Applicator Certification
- Records of employee training with sign-in sheet.